

.

From: Timperi, Ralph (DPH)
Sent: Monday, November 03, 2003 7:39 AM
To: Belanger, Peter (DPH); Borne, Alan (DPH); Caloggero, Dina (DPH); Cormier, Carol (DPH); Elvin, Paul (DPH); Gauthier, Cheryl (DPH); George, Harvey (DPH); Grazioplene, Mariah (DPH); Han, Linda (DPH); Konomi, Raimond (DPH); Kopec, Leo (DPH); Nassif, Julianne (DPH); Peppe, Joseph (DPH); Pribeck, Kristen (DPH); Salemi, Charles (DPH); Sloutsky, Alex (DPH); Smole, Sandra (DPH); Werner, Barbara (DPH)
Subject: FW: ABT Associates and FBI survey

FYI. Please be cautious about responding to telephone "surveys" from individuals that we do not know. Cheryl Gauthier wisely did not answer questions from this Abt contractor before checking on the validity of the survey. As you can see in the note from Doug Anders, FBI headquarters representative, this survey was not authorized by the FBI. Ralph

-----Original Message-----

From: Doug Anders [<mailto:danders@fbiacademy.edu>]
Sent: Saturday, November 01, 2003 10:23 PM
To: 'Becker, Scott '; 'Timperi, Ralph '; 'Crouch, Norman '
Cc: Doug Anders; Rebecca Walker; James M. Robertson
Subject: RE: ABT Associates and FBI survey

Scott, Ralph & Norm:

I did manage to track this down. ABT Associates received a contract for an evaluation study -- NOT a "survey" -- for us. I will discuss this further with our Contract Officer's Technical Rep (COTR) to find out why the contractor was/is querying PHLs as to what types of materials they routinely see. The COTR should provide that information to the contractor with input from my office (HMRU).

For clarification, we (HMRU) are interested in understanding the utility and limitations of what I call "broad-spectrum" protein detection methods that are marketed to first responders, or that could be adapted to field screening methods. Most of the kits that are marketed to first responders are based on Bradford/Lowry protein detection methods (i.e., visible color change when protein is present). ABT Associates was awarded a contractor to evaluate these kits based on the experience and input from the FBI.

The contract for this study was recently awarded to ABT Associates. Since I have not been directly involved in this contract award process, I was not aware that the contractor would be contacting PHLs to gain information. In my opinion, the contractor should NOT have contacted PHLs without receiving consent from us or without our soliciting input from the PHLs, through the APhL.

For the information of the COTR, the contractor should request all such further information directly from the sponsor. Please ensure that this topic is addressed at the "kick-off" meeting.

Ralph, Norm & Scott - I apologize for any inconvenience and/or confusion, and I hope that your laboratories won't receive any such further requests for information without a request from us.

V/r,

Doug Anders

-----Original Message-----

From: Becker, Scott
To: Timperi, Ralph; Crouch, Norman
Cc: Anders, Doug
Sent: 10/30/03 2:44 PM
Subject: RE: ABT Associates and FBI survey

Ralph, I'm also going to pass this onto our APHL FBI liaison Doug Anders, by cc here, for his input. Sounds fishy that it wouldn't come through us or CDC. Scott

-----Original Message-----

From: Timperi, Ralph
Sent: Thursday, October 30, 2003 12:13 PM
To: Becker, Scott; Crouch, Norman
Subject: FW: ABT Associates and FBI survey

Scott and Norm, FYI. The Abt survey I'm sure is legitimate, but this seems like something that should have been done by CDC/APHL and the LRN. RT

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Gauthier, Cheryl (DPH)
> Sent: Thursday, October 30, 2003 11:07 AM
> To: Timperi, Ralph (DPH)
> Subject: ABT Associates

>

> Hi Ralph,

>

> FYI.....I received a phone message yesterday from a woman named Luba Katz

> from ABT Associates who was supposedly performing a survey for the FBI on

> the most commonly submitted samples for BT testing, the most commonly used

> powders in threat letters and what protein assays are used to rule in or

> out BT agents. I had to call Nick Boshears back regarding the Duxbury threat letter so I mentioned this to him and he was unaware of any surveys

> and asked me to wait before calling her back. Nick called me back shortly

> after and told me that FBI headquarters in Quantico is also unaware of any

> survey and to get more information regarding this.

>

> I spoke with her today, and it appears that it may be legitimate. She gave me the name and phone number of the FBI contact in D.C. and the contract number for the work. I relayed this information to Nick and I am

> waiting to hear if I can answer her questions. I mentioned this to

> Mariah, and she told me that you are familiar with ABT Associates.

Are

> you aware of any FBI survey?

>

> Cheryl

>

> Director, Bio-Threat & Advanced Technologies Laboratory

> Massachusetts Department of Public Health

> State Laboratory Institute

> 305 South Street

> Jamaica Plain, MA 02130

> 617-983-6266

>

>